Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), Nuclear Weapon States (NWS), regulatory and safety functions with respect to the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) and its facilities, hitherto exercised by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), will now be exercised through the Internal Society Committee. Structure that has been constituted by the Director, BARC. While carrying out the above functions, BARC will, inter-alia, ensure compliance with the principles of good safety management as given in the relevant safety codes, guides, standards, etc. developed by AERB and the acceptable limits of radiation exposure to members of the public prescribed by AERB.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister's observation on crossing LOC

*74. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the reported observation of the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir appearing in the Hindu dated 28th June, 2000, to the effect that Government should cross the Line of Control and retrieve the Pak-occupied Kashmir and to convert the Line of Control as international border.

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government agrees to the view point of the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if not, whether the latter should be desisted from making such irresponsible statement?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government have seen the report dated 28th June, 2000 appearing in The Hindu.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian Union. A part of the territory of the State remains under the illegal occupation of Pakistan.

Government is committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with Pakistan through peaceful discussions as envisaged in the Simla Agreement and reaffirmed in the Lahore Declaration. These are the cornerstones of India Pakistan relations. The Line of Control, a treaty document, rooted in the Simla Agreement, is an important measure for the maintenance of peace and security. India has

scrupulously respected the Line of Control and has repeatedly called upon Pakistan to do so.

Number of Insured Persons under ESIC

*75. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of insured persons under ESIC cover in the country;

(b) the break-up of such figures, State-wise;

(c) the ratio of hospitals to insured persons in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether it is a fact that the hospitals are less in number than required;

(e) whether any review will be done to assess the need for more medical facilities; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given in the annexed statement. (*See* below)

(c) There is one ESI hospital for 47,618 Insured Persons in Andhra Pradesh.

(d) to (f) The average bed occupancy in ESI hospitals in Andhra Pradesh is 74.2 per cent. For super speciality treatment of Insured Persons in Andhra Pradesh necessary tie-up arrangements have been made with the reputed medical institutions. As such no difficulty is caused to the Insured Persons due to shortage of hospital beds in the State. Review of the need for more medical facilities and upgradation/modernization of existing medical facilities is an ongoing process. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has accordingly reviewed the matter and formulated a proposal to set up a new 50 bed ESI hospital in Hyderabad.